[Translation]

Loans to Farmers By R.R.Bs

3208. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of small farmers in Uttar Pradesh provided with loan by regional rural banks during 1994-95 and 1995-96 for installing tube-wells;

(b) the details of the problems faced in disbursing this loan duirng the said period; and

(c) the steps taken to solve such problems?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loans for sinking tube-wells are generally availed for by farmers having large holdings, while small farmers normally avail of the loans for installing pumpsets on bores taken up under the free boring scheme.

The data in the mannef sought for is however not available with NABARD.

(b) and (c). The data is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extend available.

Supply of Coal

3209. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether major public sector coal companies lack the transportation facilities to supply the coal to the consumption centres because of which a huge quantity of coal is getting accumulated near the coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Coal companies do not transport coal to the consumption point. Coal is transported to the consumption centre by the Railways or by the consumer themselves by their captive modes of transportation (merry-go-round system, belt, rope) or by road etc. Except for railways, these systems are captive or privately owned. Coal Companies offer coal to consumers at a specifical point of despatch at the colliery end. It is the responsibility of the Coal consumers to arrange to transport quantity to the consumption centre according to their own convenience and available transport system.

It is a fact that due to mis-match between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas, coal companies do face difficulties to move all the coal produced. Ministry of Coal and Coal companies are however taking steps to improve despatches by rail in coordination with the Railways. Steps are also constantly made to upgrade and improve the infrastructure for evacuation of coal production by the Coal companies.

[English]

Central Excise on Camphor

3210. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the camphor is widely used all over the country for pooja and religious ceremonies apart from its scientific value;

(b) if so, the demand thereof, the installed production capacity of camphor and imports made during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received representation for removal of central excise duty on camphor; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. the details regarding demand of camphor are not maintained by this Ministry. At present, the installed reduction capacity of camphor industry is of the order of 10,000 TPA and the annual production is approximately 7,000 TPA . The imports of camphor (Natural Camphor & Synthetic Camphor) during the last three years are given below:

Natural Camphor

	Qty. (MT)
1993-94	-
1994-95	41.0
1995-96	218.6

Synthetic Camphor

	Qty. (MT)
1993-94	949.9
1994-95	203.0
1995-96	620.9

(c) and (d). Government have received representations for removal of central excise duty on camphor. The representations will be examined while considering proposals for 1997-98 budget.

Export Growth

3211. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exports growth has been declining during the last three years in the country;